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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/016,317	12/06/2001	Srinivas Guddanti	10016586-1	4745

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EXAMINER

LEE, SUSAN SHUK YIN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2852

DATE MAILED: 07/21/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/016,317

Applicant(s)

GUDDANTI ET AL.

Examiner

Susan S. Lee

Art Unit

2852

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 April 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6-12,14-16 and 18-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6-10,16,18-21 and 23 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11,14,15 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other:  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 11 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohno (5,933,676).

Ohno discloses a printer system including a printer 102, printer engine 105, external devices 101, and a network 106 connecting the printer 102 to the external devices 101. The printer 102 have a sensor unit for detecting various conditions including changes in environmental conditions such as changes in external temperature, the number of pages to be printed, and the remaining amount of toner. This performance of this sensor unit reads on the instant invention's "sensing at least one environmental condition of an environment proximate to the image forming device". A printer controller 103 performs communication with the plurality of external devices 101 which reads on the instant invention's "communicating data regarding the at least one environmental condition externally of the image forming device" because controller 103 receives information on the changes in the printing conditions, such as the environmental changes and changes in internal conditions of the printer, and transmits information to a panel unit 104 and external devices 101. The controller 103 also executes calibration in response to an instruction from the panel unit 104 and the

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external devices 101 which reads on the instant invention's "receiving a request within the image forming device from a source 101 external of the image forming device", and "communicating responsive to the receiving". Note column 5, lines 1-12. Note column 4, line 60- column 6, line 50; and column 7, lines 9-14. The printer controller 103 comprises a RAM, as a storage memory used by the CPU 309; 310, an EEPROM configured with a non-volatile memory for storing control information, such as a density correction table, for example. Note column 7, line 65-column 8, line 11. An engine controller 150 supervises an occurrence of changes in the printing conditions, which requires calibration, at any time. When any change in printing conditions occur, the engine controller 150 notifies information on the change in the printing conditions to the printer controller 103. Note column 8, lines 37-44.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 22 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohno (676) in view of Nakahara et al. (Japan, 151).

Ohno, as discussed above, differs from the instant invention by not disclosing the environmental conditions include humidity.

Nakahara et al. discloses a temperature/humidity sensor 10 an environmental sensor. This sensor is attached to the image forming device main body. Note abstract.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus of Ohno with the sensor of Nakahara et al. so that both temperature and humidity can be sensed in the surrounding areas of the image forming apparatus so that optimal image formation based on the environmental changes can be obtained. In addition, Nakahara et al. shows that environmental conditions around an image forming apparatus also includes humidity.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claim 12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 16, 18-20, 21, and 23 are allowed over the prior art of record.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 11, 14, 15, and 22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kito (Japan, 315) discloses art in providing a sub-battery when a main battery is less than a prescribed value in a printer. Suzuki et al. (Japan, 150) discloses using an auxiliary power supply when a main power supply is turned off in an image forming apparatus. Best et al. discloses an exchangeable part unit with memory


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for storing function-relevant operating data of the part unit. Inose discloses a container with a memory storing identification information that can be read out by an external device.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan S. Lee whose telephone number is 703-308-2138. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri., 10:30-8:00, Second Monday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Art Grimley can be reached on 703-308-1373. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3432 for regular communications and 703-305-3432 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

  
Susan S. Lee  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2852

sl  
July 12, 2003